

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-30 are pending

Disclaimers Relating to Claim Interpretation and Prosecution History Estoppel

Any reference herein to "the invention" is intended to refer to the specific claim or claims being addressed herein. The claims of this application are intended to stand on their own and are not to be read in light of the prosecution history of any related or unrelated patent or patent application. Furthermore, no arguments in any prosecution history relate to any claim in this application, except for arguments specifically directed to the claim.

Oath/Declaration

A new Declaration is submitted as required by the Office action.

Election/Restrictions

The Examiner required election of either Species I (claims 1-8, 13-18, and 22-27) or Species II (claims 10-12, 19-21, 28-30). Species I is hereby elected with traverse.

Claims 1-8, 13-18, and 22-27 (Species I) are directed to a method and apparatus involving a first display device and an optional second display device. Claims 10-12, 19-21, 28-30 (Species II) are directed to a method and apparatus involving a first display device and a second display device. The election of species requirement is traversed on the grounds that the claims, as grouped by the Examiner, do not represent distinct species, but are related as combinations and subcombinations.

In the rationale for the election/restriction requirement, the Examiner asserted that the species were independent or distinct because, in part, "the limitations of one species are not available to the other." However, the limitations of claim 10 are all included in claim 5 (including the limitations of claims 3 and 4), and claim 5 contains additional limitations not found in claim 10. Thus claim 10 is a subcombination of the limitations of combination claim 10.

Similarly, claim 19 is a subcombination of combination claim 15 (including the limitations of claims 13 and 14), and claim 28 is a subcombination of the combination claim 25 (including the limitations of claims 23 and 24).

MPEP section 806.05(c)(I) discusses restriction of combination and subcombination claims, as follows:

Where a combination as claimed requires the details of a subcombination as separately claimed, there is usually no evidence that combination AB is patentable without the details of B. The inventions are not distinct and a requirement for restriction must not be made or maintained, even if the subcombination has separate utility.

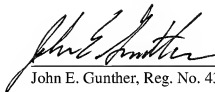
Thus it is submitted that the requirement for election of species is inappropriate. Withdrawal of the requirement is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned registered practitioner to answer any questions or to discuss steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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